Alberto and Carmen Heredia Interview October, 1983
By Dolores Delgado-Campbell

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:22 Alberto's personal information, birthplace and date.

1:00 Recruitment begins in Mexico for laborers to work on U.S. railroads, May 1943. Heredia was the first "enganche"

2:12 Heredia in group of 1,200 men sent north, 29 arrive in Roseville

3:15 Mexican radio and press announced agricultural and railroad opportunity. In Mexico City Manpower Commission opens a large office to recruit.

4:19 Physical examinations administered to applicants, only the very healthy choosen to come.

5:14 Typ.e of work for "braceros", some problems because of language difference, Mexicans told of peon conditions before coming.

6:36 Demands of work: "pico y pala", changing rail, 48./hour, 10 hours/day, no overtime. Protest raised to both governments.

8:28 Americans earned more, out of Mexican pay expenses withheld. Abnormalities committed. Mexican consul responded.

9:48 Italian and Greek workers received better food. Description of food served to Mexicans. Illness among Mexicans.

11:29 Investigators came to Roseville. Salaries increased, overtime paid; treatment by foremen slowly bettered.

12:20 Highest ranking Mexican was 2nd in charge, never the foreman.

13:08 Heredia worked for 2. years under Manpower Commission contract; no more recruitment done.

13:55 Indefinite visa extentions to work were given at bordertown.

14:49 Work duties changed to "Round House", semiskilled, different work, better pay (8. more per hour).

15:42 Union membership required.

16:27 Union did not help braceros under contract, non-contracted Mexicans workers were represented.

17:04 After Manpower Commission many Mexicans came as voluntarily for personal reasons and for work, workers were still needed by the railroad.

17:35 Immigration officials made occassional sweeps, sent many back to Mexico.

17:52 Heredia stayed in Roseville because wife and family are all here.

18:50 Continued working with Southern Pacific until 1962 accident. taken to Roseville hospital, description of injuries.

20:26 Medical costs, declsed disabled, compensations offered.

22:18 Lawyer jimmy Fajardo fought case, Heredia vs Southern Pacific, settled 3 years later.

23:33 Only certain elements within Southern Pacific treated Mexicans poorly. Most bosses treat Heredia well.

(Carmen Heredia narrates)

25:05 Difficult life as wife of railroad worker

25:40 First house was a "house", then moved to accession (i.e. the box cars), 7 families total lived in box cars.

26;14 No hot water, coal stoves, one outside bathroom for all families, cold nights.

27:23 One year in box cars, no rent, child born in the box car, all children born at home.

28:29 Dangerous situation especially for children.

29:24 Sold first house with thoughts of returning to Mexico, but Carmen did not want to return.

(Alberto narrates)

29:40 Contracts renewable dependent on Southern Pacific.

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:00	Renewal of "bracero" contracts. Length of each contract, Alberto renewed 6 contracts.
1:03	Bilingual contracts (English and Spanish).
2:03	Mrs Heredia as a good wife, raised children, kept the house.
3:03	Living conditions in railroad cars, general comment on economic conditions.
3:21	Carmen's daily routine.
3:40	Roseville "boarding house" where all batchelor men lived, with cafeteria, kitchen, collective baths.

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